Master Plan for Cathedral Provincial Park

BC Parks

Hon. Terry Huberts, Minister of State for Vancouver Island/Coast and North Coast, and Minister Responsible for Parks.

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1989

Okanagan District
Okanagan Lake Park, Box 318
Summerland, B.C. V0H 1Z0

Province of British Columbia

Ministry of Parks
SOUTHERN INTERIOR REGION

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. J. N. Masselink
Assistant Deputy Minister
MINISTRY OF PARKS

Date: 89.06.06
File: 2-2-1-71-27

RE: Cathedral Park Master Plan

I am pleased to submit the Cathedral Park Master Plan for your review and approval.

T. O. Moore
Regional Director

Recommended: _____
District Manager

Recommended: _____
Director, Planning & Conservation Services

Approved: _____ July 5/89.
Assistant Deputy Minister

RWN/MRH:jv

CATHEDRAL PROVINCIAL PARK

MASTER PLAN

JUNE, 1989

89-05835/

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CATHEDRAL PARK MASTER PLAN

A. Plan Highlights

The original purpose in establishing Cathedral Provincial Park, to protect the beauty and natural qualities of the landscapes and features associated with the Cathedral Lakes and the Ashnola River drainage for public recreation use and enjoyment, remains the guiding mandate for its use, development and management.

The Plan distinguishes three major zones for park use development and management:

Natural Environment - the heavy levels of backcountry use in the Cathedral Lakes Core Area require development and management strategies to protect the park environment and to ensure a quality park experience. Facilities and services relate primarily to the interests and capabilities of families, older aged visitors, and inexperienced backcountry users.

Intensive Use - the Ashnola Corridor provides opportunities for camping, fishing and nature study. Facilities and services are designed to maintain the traditional informal nature of recreation use along the Corridor.

Wilderness - the west side of the Park, from Wall Creek trail head to Red Mountain Meadows, and the east side encompassing the Mountain Goat Creek and Haystack Lakes, serve as wilderness hinterland to the Park for backpacking and wilderness recreation. The south side of the Park, including upper Wall and Ewart Creeks, will be managed as pristine wilderness with no facilities.

Promotion of the Park will relate primarily to the Cathedral Lakes Core Area, with emphasis placed on increasing park visitation during the early July and mid-August to late September periods.

B. Introduction

1. Purpose of the Plan

This Master Plan is the result of an increasing awareness amongst Park Managers for the need to establish a long term plan for management and development of Cathedral Park, and, in particular, to deal with problems arising from increased use pressures, conflicting recreation interests and resource use impacts. In this context, the Cathedral Park Master Plan states the park roles, objectives, and actions for use, management and development of the Park and its resources.

The Background Report, with cross-referencing in the Master Plan, provides information to gain perspective and understanding of the basis for Master Plan statements. Those unfamiliar with the Park or reviewing the Master Plan for the first time, are advised to read the Background Report before starting into the Master Plan.

The Master Plan was produced through staff co-ordination of the Provincial Park's Okanagan District, Southern Interior Regional and Victoria Headquarter's Planning sections, and Regional Visitor and Resource Services sections. The planning process involved input from visitors and specific resource users in the Park and close consultation with a variety of public interest groups with key representation from the Okanagan-

Similkameen Parks Society, the B.C. Wildlife Federation and the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia.

2. Planning Issues

The Master Plan addresses a number of issues:

a. Park Role Statement

In developing the statement of Park Roles and Objectives a number of interests, many of which are conflicting, will be taken into account. In some cases compromise may be required and it is not expected that all interests can be completely satisfied.

b. Visitor Use Parameters

The Master Plan requires a sensitive appreciation of visitor needs and attitudes in determining appropriate levels and standards as well as the controls and regulations that will have to be imposed on visitor activities to protect the park environment and to ensure a quality experience for park visitors as a whole.

c. Relationship with Cathedral Resort

The strategic location of the resort on Quiniscoe Lake, at the entry point into the core features area of the Park, has a dominating presence which significantly influences the character and use of the Park. The resort provides a transportation service and sense of security which allows guests and park users to visit the Park who would otherwise be incapable or hesitant to do so. At the same time, use levels and activities that result from the Resort and the easy access have impacted on the original wilderness character of the Park.

There is presently little perceived conflict between the resort and general park visitors, however, economic factors could force changes in the resort and its operations which could detrimentally affect the quality of the park experience.

d. Commercial Use

Guiding and outfitting activities, both existing opportunities and demands for expanded opportunities, are assessed in relation to park objectives, compatibility with other park use interests and environmental factors.

e. Winter Use

The Cathedral Lakes Resort has expressed interest in establishing winter operations in the Park. While there is limited potential for cross-country skiing and ski touring in the Park, there may be some opportunities for winter use relating to a winter retreat concept.

f. Relationship with Pasayten Wilderness and Snowy Alpine

The U.S. National Forest Service has expressed opposition to trail connection between Cathedral Park and their Pasayten Wilderness. Park zoning and development plans reflect this position.

Horse riding, and to some extent extended backpacking trips, are limited in Cathedral Park. By contrast the extensive trails and rolling alpine country in the Snowy Alpine area situated to the east of the Park are ideally suited for these activities. The Master Planning process has been closely co-ordinated with Ministry of Forests' development and management plans for the Snowy Alpine area to ensure maximum advantage is

taken of the potential to establish complementary recreation opportunities.

g. Management of the Ashnola River Corridor

While the majority of recreationists enjoy the present informal nature of camping in the Ashnola Valley, there is an apparent need to secure better control over visitor impacts, particularly from inappropriate use of vehicles.

h. Resource Management

The Master Plan deals with a number of complex resource management concerns in the Park. The many years of fire suppression and the effects on vegetation patterns in the Park are a major concern.

i. Grazing

Grazing rights in the Twin Buttes, Red Mountain and Wall Creek areas predate the establishment of the Park and are consequently recognized as long as the present holders maintain their interests. Cattle grazing creates a conflict with general recreation use, and impacts on visual, wildlife, vegetative and water resources of the Park.

j. Hunting

Hunting in the Core Area of the Park is a potential safety problem and as well poses conflict between the values and expectations of hunters and non-hunters. Hunting regulations will be evaluated in relation to these concerns and on the basis of the Park's wildlife capability to sustain harvest.

k. Horse Use

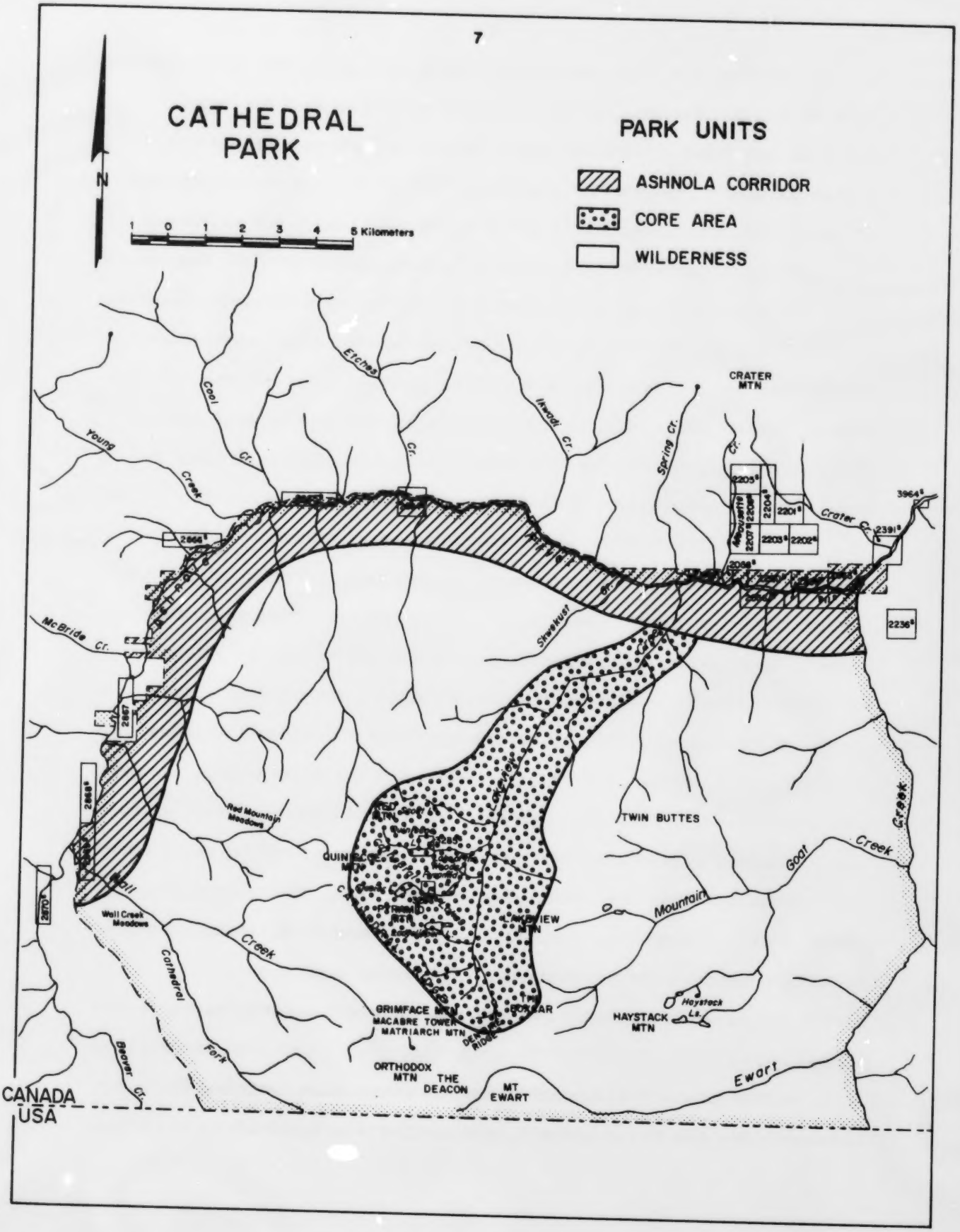
Horse use represents a primary source of conflict

between recreational interest groups. The majority of park users strongly oppose any horse use, while horse users have demanded rights to ride through the Park and into various scenic alpine areas of the Park. Environmental factors and areas of obvious user conflicts pose major limitations for horse use.

3. Background Summary

Cathedral Lakes Park was established in 1968 over the Lakeview Creek drainage including the Cathedral Lakes and alpine features at the top end of the drainage. Efforts by conservationists brought about the expansion of the Park in 1975 to the present boundaries of Ewart Creek on the east, the Ashnola River on the north and west, and the American border on the south, containing 33,454 hectares. The Park has been included as a Schedule A Park under Bill 174, affording the strongest legislation available for protection of park boundaries. This legislation ensures that no land can be removed from the Park without amendment to the Bill, however, land can be added through Order-in-Council.

As part of the Okanagan Ranges, the Park represents the range of plant and wildlife associations, from the valley bottom in the Ashnola drainage to alpine summits, that typify the leeward, dry interior conditions of the Cascade Mountains. The dry, windswept alpine tundra of the Park contains plant associations and species that are rare within the Province and unique within the Provincial Parks system. The complex geology of the Okanagan Ranges, as represented by the landform features of the Park, contribute a valuable landscape component to the Park system.


CATHEDRAL PARK
N
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers
PARK UNITS
ASHNOLA CORRIDOR
CORE AREA
WILDERNESS
CRATER MTN
Young Creek
Cool Cr.
Etches Cr.
Ikwadi Cr.
Spring Cr.
Crater Cr.
McBride Cr.
Skwakust Cr.
Red Mountain Meadows
Wall Creek Meadows
Cathedral Fork
Beaver Cr.
Goat Creek
Mountain
TWIN BUTTES
GRIMFACE MTN
MACABRE TOWER
MATRIARCH MTN
ORTHODOX MTN
THE DEACON
MT EWART
HAYSTACK MTN
Haystack Ls.
Ewart
CANADA
USA

Within the southern part of the Province, the Park offers special circumstances for backcountry recreation. The open terrain, scenic vistas, and many natural features offer key attractions for hikers, photographers, fishermen and naturalists. Coupled with these recreational attractions, the Park provides opportunity to experience backcountry recreation activities in a relatively safe environment resulting from a generally dependable climatic regime, a general absence of bears, and a comparatively stable and hazard free terrain. With provision of convenient access, these factors create a park which has tremendous appeal for recreationists wishing to experience wilderness without the usual risks associated with wilderness camping and travel.

The primary recreation features of the Park are concentrated around the lakes and alpine environments at the top end of Lakeview Creek, providing a destination attraction for hikers, but restrictive opportunities for horse use or extended backpacking trips. The confined nature of this "Recreational Core" of the Park sets limitations on both social and physical carrying capacities, and the necessity for designated trails and facility bases.

Other wilderness recreational feature areas in the Park - the Haystack Lakes, Red Mountain Meadows, Twin Buttes and Wall Creek - offer potential for limited dispersed backcountry use. Sensitive environmental factors, isolation, and access difficulties will dictate low carrying capacities for these areas.

The Ashnola River provides an attractive setting for informal vehicle based camping and activities associated with the

river and surrounding forested landscapes.

The Cathedral Lakes Core Area of the Park is becoming increasingly popular with visitors primarily coming from the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan. The mid-July to mid-August period is heavily used, placing pressures on park resources and creating crowded conditions. During early July and from mid-August to late September there is comparatively little use, however these can be very pleasant periods to visit the Park.

C. The Role of the Park

1. Regional and Provincial Context

Cathedral Park is considered provincially significant in relation to both provincial park representative landscape and recreation objectives.

The Okanagan Range, as represented by the Park, is a geologically distinct landscape component of the Cascade Mountains. Along with the complex geological history of these Southern Okanagan Mountains, the dry Okanagan climate creates biogeoclimatic conditions which are recognizably different than those of any other landscape region of the Province. These circumstances have drawn the focus of research projects and many natural history studies.

The Cathedral Lakes and their surrounding alpine and subalpine landscapes form a popular and provincially significant recreation setting. This Core Area of Cathedral Park provides one of the safest, most accessible and attractive recreation backcountry destinations within the Province. These attributes,

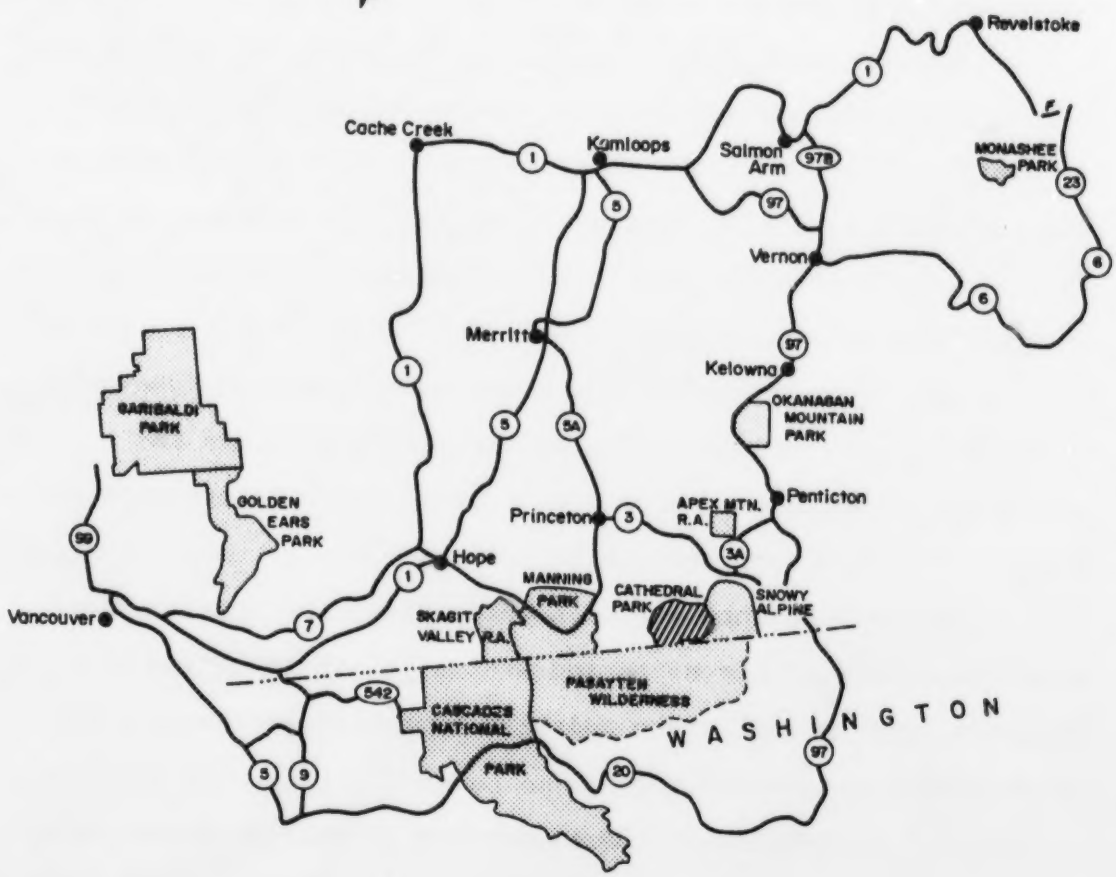
combined with the dry climate of the southern Okanagan, have strong appeal for outdoor recreationists who enjoy hiking and camping in the natural setting of the mountains and sub-alpine forests, but are unwilling or unable to undergo the rigors and hazards commonly associated with wilderness travel. In this context, the comforts, convenience and security offered by Cathedral Lakes Resort plays a major complementary role in attracting and providing for recreation use on the Park.

The Park is primarily used for extended holidays, attracting most of its visitors from the southern parts of the province, but also from many other points in British Columbia, Canada and the United States. With the four wheel drive public transport service to its Core Area, the Park is within reasonable travel time of the Lower Mainland and Thompson-Okanagan population centres to serve as an attractive long weekend backcountry destination. Garibaldi and Manning Provincial Parks are closer to the Lower Mainland, but do not offer the convenience of public transport into their backcountry attractions. The Blackwall road into the Three Brothers area of Manning Park serves mainly for day use access, and offers fewer opportunities and attractions for backcountry destination than the Cathedral Lakes area.

Cathedral Park is the most intensively used backcountry recreation area in the Okanagan. Apex Mountain Recreation Area and Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park in the southern Okanagan, and Monashee Provincial Park in the North Okanagan are also well used, but are much more restrictive in scale and diversity of opportunities offered for backcountry recreation.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Scale 1 : 2 500 000



The Park also offers opportunities for extensive wilderness recreation in the more remote areas of Mountain Goat, Ewart and Wall Creek drainages, and for auto-based camping and river oriented activities along the Ashnola River corridor. Opportunities for wilderness travel in the Park are limited and do not compare to those of the other large wilderness provincial parks. The massive Paysaten Wilderness situated immediately south of Cathedral Park in Washington State, and the expansive open ridges of the Snowy Alpine area to the east, between Ewart Creek and the Similkameen, are much better suited to dispersed wilderness activities.

2. **Conservation Role**

From the lower elevations in the Ashnola Valley to the mountain summits, the Park provides outstanding representation of the natural biophysical characteristics of the Okanagan Range of the Cascade Mountains. Within this context, there are four general conservation goals:

a. Preservation of the scenic qualities and inherent natural features and character of Cathedral Lakes and the immediate subalpine and alpine environs in association with heavy levels of backcountry recreation use.

b. Maintenance of the Ashnola River and the immediate mountain slopes on the south and west sides of the Ashnola drainage in a natural state relative to public aspirations for recreational access and use.

c. Protection of the wilderness integrity of the major portions of the Park lying above the Ashnola River corridor and outside of the Cathedral Lakes Core Area.

d. Allowing natural processes to occur within the limits determined by compatibility with park recreation and resource management objectives.

3. **Recreation Role**

Cathedral Park's recreation role is defined as follows:

a. The Park provides significant destination vehicle based camping and river oriented outdoor recreation opportunities. Park management will maintain the traditional, informal recreational use of small dispersed and rustic riverside campsites in the Ashnola River corridor. Appropriate recreation pursuits are camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, nature study, photography, and hunting.

b. The Park provides accessible backcountry recreation activities:

i. The Cathedral Lakes Core Area will be developed and managed as a relatively accessible, safe and attractive backcountry destination. The needs of less experienced, middle and older aged visitors, families and groups will be emphasized. Appropriate recreation activities are: camping, hiking, nature study, backpacking, photography, fishing, mountaineering and nordic skiing.

ii. The backcountry lodge accommodation is a unique recreation opportunity supported by B.C. Parks. Cathedral Lakes Resort Ltd. operates a lodge adjacent to Quiniscoe Lake. This commercial enterprise, located on private land in the Park, provides the public with a lodge-based backcountry recreation experience. Only four other Provincial Parks - Tweedsmuir, Muncho Lake, E.C. Manning, Mt. Assiniboine - contain lodge

accommodation within or close to a backcountry recreation setting. B.C. Parks will encourage this special role.

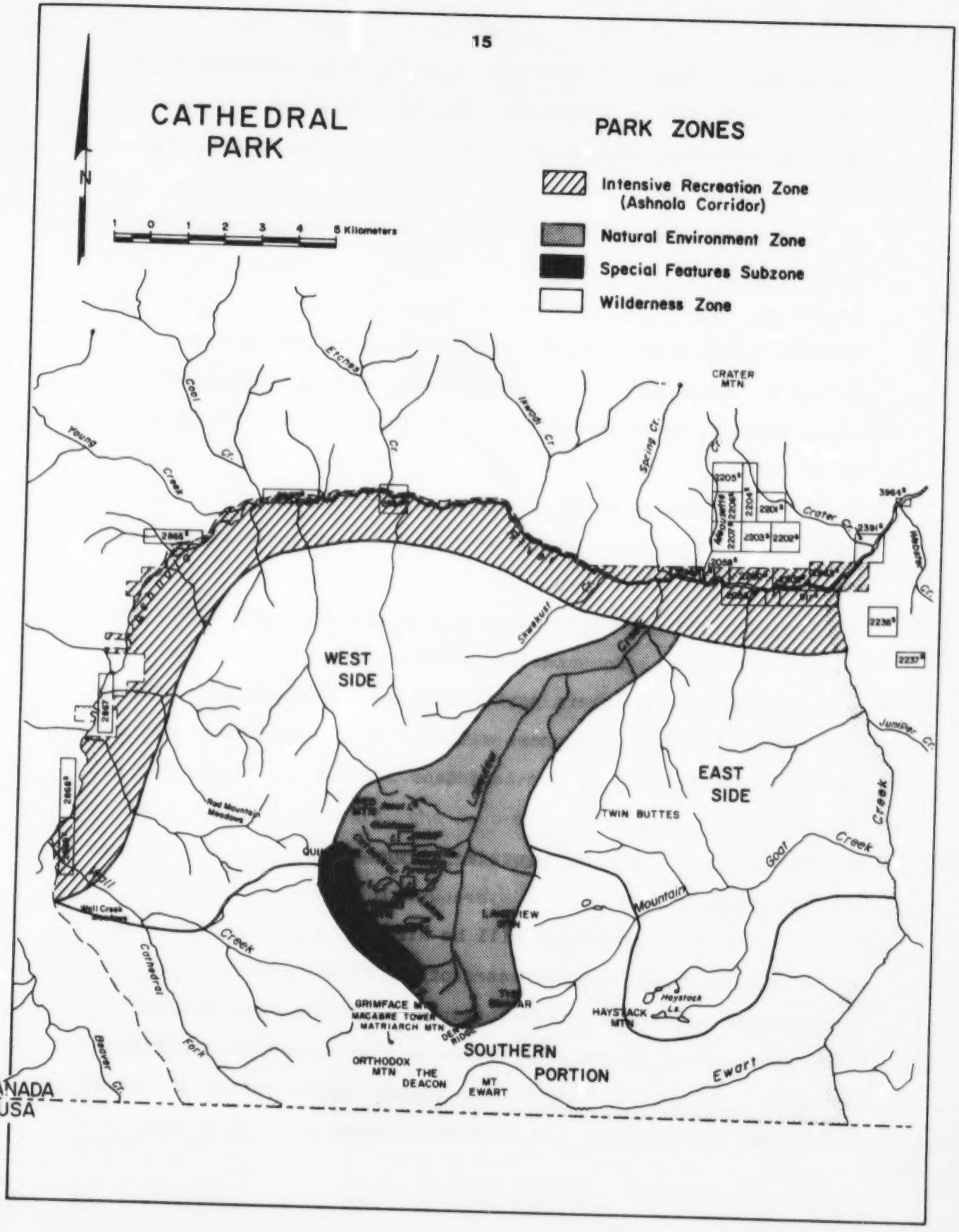
c. The Park allows for low, dispersed levels of wilderness recreation in remote natural environments. The portion of the Park outside the Ashnola River Corridor and the Core Area will be managed as wilderness. Recreation activities compatible with wilderness include: backpacking, nature study, photography, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and nordic skiing.

D. Zoning Plan

The intensive recreation, natural environment and wilderness zones as defined under the guidelines and criteria of the Provincial Park zoning system reflect the intended conservation and recreation roles for the Ashnola River area, the Cathedral Lakes Core Area, and the wilderness areas of the Park.

Intensive Recreation Zone - takes in the area between the outside Park boundary and the Ashnola River, and the lower Ashnola Valley slopes of the Park. Recreation use in this zone focuses on readily accessible campsites along the river. Use levels tend to be relatively heavy in summer, but are dispersed over a number of sites to provide some sense of solitude. The park entrance and the major trail head base facilities for Ewart, Lakeview and Wall Creeks are included in this zone.

Natural Environment Zone - encompasses general geographic boundaries of the Lakeview drainage to include the Cathedral Lakes Core Area of the Park, and the road and trail accesses into the Core. The road provides for public transport service as an


CATHEDRAL PARK
N
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers
PARK ZONES
Intensive Recreation Zone (Ashnola Corridor)
Natural Environment Zone
Special Features Subzone
Wilderness Zone
CRATER MTN
Young Creek
Cool Cr.
Etches Cr.
Ironside Cr.
Spring Cr.
Crater Cr.
Skwakusi Cr.
WEST SIDE
EAST SIDE
TWIN BUTTES
Junior Cr.
Goat Creek
Mountain
Red Mountain Meadows
Wall Creek Meadows
Cathedral Fork
Beaver Cr.
GRIMFACE MTN
MACABRE TOWER
MATRIARCH MTN
ORTHODOX MTN
THE DEACON
MT EWART
SOUTHERN PORTION
HAYSTACK MTN
Haystack La.
Ewart
CANADA
USA

alternative to hike-in access into the Core Area. Recreation use levels of this zone preclude any sense of wilderness isolation. A **Special Features Subzone** identifies the significant geologic formation of Cathedral Ridge.

Wilderness Zone - for planning and management purposes this zone is separated into 3 areas:

a. **West Side** - bounded by the Wall Creek trail into Red Mountain Meadows, the Ashnola corridor and the Lakeview drainage.

b. **East Side** - takes in the Twin Buttes, the Haystack Lakes, and the upper sections of Wall, Ewart and Mountain Goat Creeks.

c. **Southern Portion** - comprises the Cathedral Forks drainage, and the upper sections of Wall, Ewart and Mountain Goat Creeks.

The west and east side wilderness areas will have trails and primitive campsites for user convenience and to protect the environment. The southern portion of the wilderness zone will be managed as pristine wilderness with no trails or evidence of unnatural disturbance on the landscape.

E. Natural and Cultural Resources Management

1. Introduction

Resource management will be directed toward preservation of natural features and processes of the Park to ensure the maintenance of a quality environment for public enjoyment and recreation. Park zones will define the levels and criteria for resource management. Visitor use impacts in the Cathedral Lakes Core Area will require more intense resource management than

special measures will be applied to protect sensitive resources. Park management will be closely coordinated with resource management interests outside the Park, particularly along the park periphery.

2. **Natural Resource Management Objectives and Actions**

a. **Land**

Objective:

To ensure continued compatibility between the Resort operation and Park use.

To acquire inholding (D.L. 2200 "s") for protection of Bighorn Sheep habitat.

To provide continuity of Park boundaries along the Ashnola River.

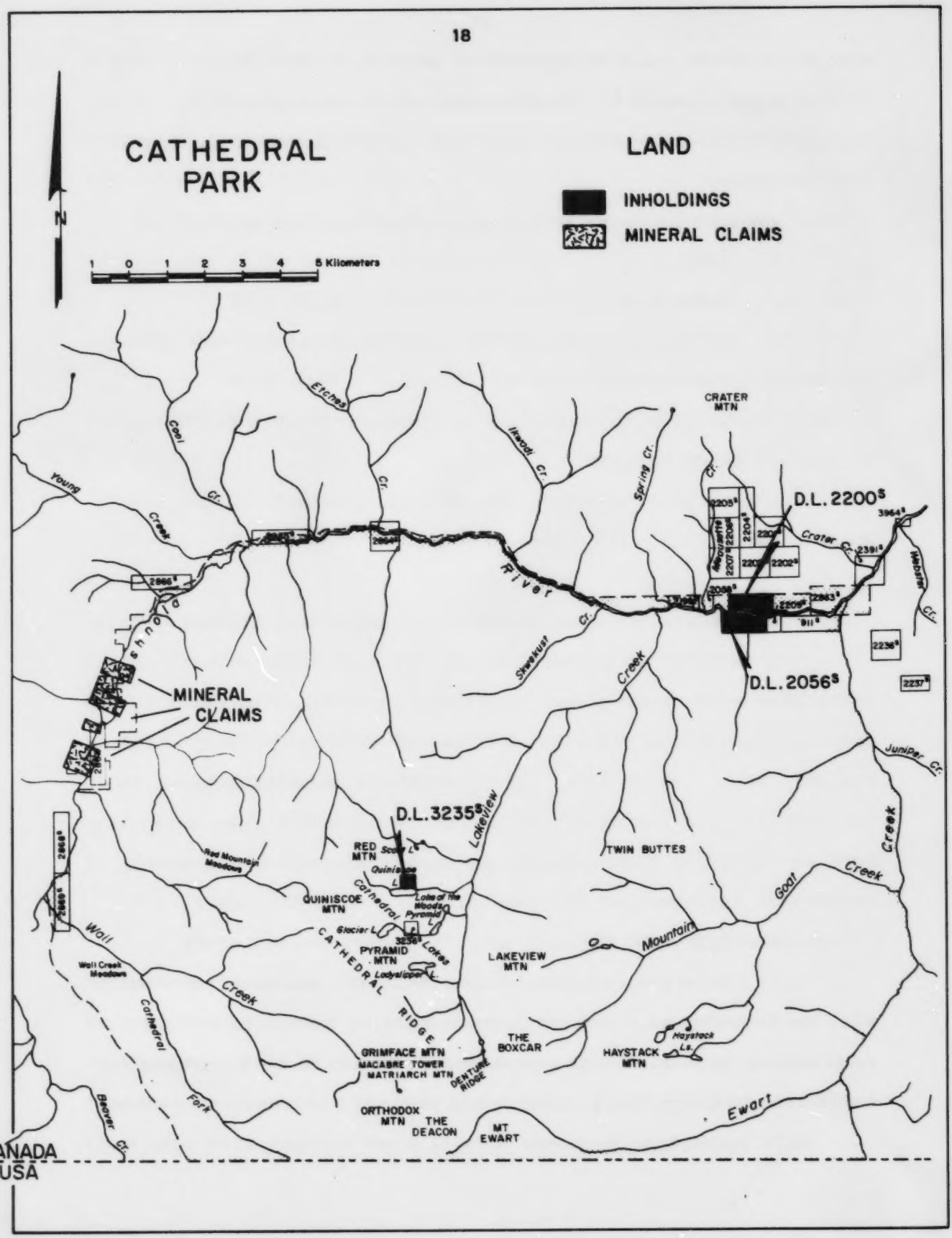
Actions:

i. **Cathedral Lakes Resort (D.L. 3235 "s") Quiniscoe Lake**

(refer to pages 27-32 of the Background Report) Parks will make every effort to maintain the existing mutually compatible relationship with the Resort. Planning, development and management of the Park will incorporate recreation use from the Resort. For its part, the Resort is dependent upon using the Park as the focus for promoting its operation and ensuring the recreation enjoyment of its guests.

ii. **D.L. 2200 "s"**

This property, which has minimal impact on park use, will be included as a low priority inholding in the provincial park acquisition list. The property is situated on important California Bighorn Sheep lambing habitat.


CATHEDRAL PARK
LAND
INHOLDINGS
MINERAL CLAIMS
N
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers
CRATER MTN
D.L. 2200S
D.L. 2056S
D.L. 3235S
MINERAL CLAIMS
Young Creek
Cool Cr.
Etches Cr.
Ilkeroi Cr.
Spring Cr.
Crater Cr.
Harpster Cr.
Shuksan
River
Skwakusr Cr.
Creek
Juniper Cr.
Lakeview
RED MTN
Scout L.
Quiniscoe L.
QUINISCOE MTN
Cathedral
Lake of the Woods
Pyramid
Glacier L.
3236S
Lakes
PYRAMID MTN
Ladyslipper
CATHEDRAL RIDGE
Red Mountain Meadows
Wall Creek Meadows
Wall Creek
Cathedral Fork
Beaver Cr.
TWIN BUTTES
Goat Creek
Mountain
LAKEVIEW MTN
THE BOXCAR
HAYSTACK MTN
Haystack Lo.
GRIMFACE MTN
MACABRE TOWER
MATRIARCH MTN
DENTURE RIDGE
ORTHODOX MTN
THE DEACON
MT EWART
Ewart
CANADA
USA

iii. **Boundaries**

(refer to pages 32, 33 of the Background Report)

B.C. Parks will add lapsed mineral claims on the west side of the Park that lie between the present boundaries and the Ashnola Road. Addition of this area will provide continuity of Park boundaries.

b. **Soils** (refer to pages 9, 10 of the Background Report)

Objective:

To relate resource management, visitor use and facility developments in the Park to soil conditions.

Actions:

i. Phase out cattle grazing from the Park to eliminate cattle mucking of meadows and creek margins and impact to trails.

ii. Restrict all horse use to the east side wilderness zone area and along the Ashnola Corridor. New trails leading from Ewart Creek to Twin Buttes and from Twin Buttes to Haystack Lakes will be constructed for horse use. All horse travel will be confined to specified horse trails.

iii. All trails in wet areas (meadow environments, creek edges, lake margins, etc.) will be properly drained, corduroyed or relocated to drier ground. Priorities:

- relocation of lower section of Goat Lakes trail
- corduroy maintenance of Lakeview trail
- relocation of trail through Red Mountain Meadows
- relocation of major wet meadow section of Mountain Goat Creek
- relocation of major wet meadow section of Haystack Lakes trail

iv. Relocate hazardous sections of the lower Wall Creek trail which are prone to slumping and sudden collapse.

v. Maintain the access road to Quiniscoe Lake in good, well drained, four wheel drive condition.

vi. Develop and mark braided sections of trails and hiking routes to achieve a defined single tread surface.
Priorities:

- Cathedral Rim trail - Stone City
- Quiniscoe Lake waterfalls
- Lakeview Mountain

vii. Direct hikers by Park information to stay on trails to prevent environmental damage.

viii. Restrict all camping in the Core Area to designated sites. Designated sites will be established at destination nodes in the east and west side wilderness zone areas where warranted by use impacts. Vehicle use will be controlled in the Ashnola River sites to prevent soil impacts.

c. **Water**

(refer to pages 10, 11 of the Background Report)

Objective:

To maintain the pure, unpolluted quality of park waters for aesthetic, ecological and health reasons.

Actions:

i. Establish sanitary facilities at all designated use sites to prevent water contamination.

ii. Monitor lakes and water courses in the Park for coliform and water-borne diseases. The public will be warned of

any hazards. Source(s) of contamination will be reduced or eliminated.

iii. Monitor lake levels at Quiniscoe Lake at a permanent reference point. Water levels will be maintained to protect spawning habitat.

iv. Assess the feasibility and impacts of establishing a water driven electric plant on Quiniscoe Creek to provide alternative power generation for Cathedral Lakes Resort.

d. **Vegetation** (refer to pages 11-14, Background Report)

Objectives:

i. To maintain plant communities and species that create or contribute to the visual and recreation attractions of the Cathedral Lakes Core Area and the Park generally.

ii. To maintain where compatible with other park objectives the established pattern of varied aged forest stands, reflecting the natural processes that occur in unmanaged forests.

iii. To provide and maintain the diversity of wildlife vegetation habitats in the Park.

iv. To preserve special sensitive and rare native plant communities and species.

v. To discourage the introduction of non-native plant species.

vi. To encourage non-destructive scientific studies to improve the knowledge of the Park's unique and representative plant associations.

Actions:

i. The Okanagan Park District office is responsible to plan and carry out fire and pest control measures in co-

ordination with pertinent resource agencies.

ii. Develop a fire suppression plan identifying visitor evacuation procedures, presuppression preparation, priority areas for control, acceptable fire fighting methods, and post fire rehabilitation requirements. Fire suppression will employ methods that minimize ground disturbance; mechanized ground access into wilderness zones of the Park will be resorted to only if there is no alternative. Unobtrusive facilities such as heli-landing sites may be located in the Park. Priority for fire suppression will be given to the Cathedral Lakes Core Area and the facility sites along the Ashnola River.

iii. Develop a comprehensive vegetation management plan through research and experimental programs. The major portions of the wilderness zones and the Ashnola River corridor will be managed to allow the use of prescribed burning and natural processes of insect and disease to maintain the diversity of forest stands. Prescribed burns may be initiated on a trial basis in selected areas to gain experience and knowledge in the use of fire as a management tool. Parks staff will rely strongly on the expertise of both the Ministries of Environment and Forests for assistance in carrying out the prescribed burns. Approved wildlife management projects may involve habitat manipulation, including the use of prescribed fires or physical removal of tree or brush cover. Special conditions may have to be applied to such projects to minimize impacts on other park resources.

Although insect and disease infestations will be accepted as a normal course of nature, some action may be

warranted to reduce fire hazard and eliminate blowdown threat to trails and facilities, or if there is potential damage to crucial wildlife habitats and rare plant communities. Sanitary or other preventative measures will be applied without benefit of road or mechanized ground access unless warranted by extraordinary circumstances.

iv. Update and maintain the Park's resources inventory, with priority placed on the identification of plant species that are rare and/or are sensitive to human disturbance. Attention will be given to alpine plants along the heavily travelled Cathedral Ridge, Lakeview Mountain, Red Mountain and trail routes above Glacier, Ladyslipper and Goat Lakes. Measures will be taken to prevent damage to fragile plant species. Actions may include public education and information, better trail or route definitions, viewing platforms and signing.

v. Establish a management program to prevent further introduction and, where feasible, the removal of non-native plant species from the Park. Invasion of knapweed and other noxious weed will be aggressively suppressed, utilizing traditional and, if necessary, certified biological control methods.

vi. Restrict removal of vegetation for construction of trails, campsites and other facilities within the Cathedral Lakes Core Area and in the wilderness zones to the immediate development area. Snags and trees presenting a public hazard may be removed.

vii. Introduce a firewood management program for the Park.

- Continue to supply firewood for the Quiniscoe campground. There is no shortage of windfall and

snags along the access road into Quiniscoe Lake to supply the Quiniscoe campground in perpetuity.

- Provision of firewood in the Lake of the Woods and Pyramid Lake campsites will depend upon hazard tree removal and clean up of blowdown and snags immediately adjacent to facilities. Once this firewood source is exhausted, fires will be prohibited in these campsite areas. Open fires will be prohibited in the remainder of the Core Area.
- Firewood availability will be assessed along the Ashnola River Corridor. Circumstances may require that firewood be provided at some of the sites. Stoves will be encouraged in the wilderness zone of the Park. In time, open fires may be prohibited in all alpine and more heavily used areas of the wilderness zone.

viii. Encourage scientific research in the Park in order to expand knowledge of the Park's vegetative resources. Project selection will consider compatibility with park users and resource management objectives.

ix. Work through the Co-ordinated Resource Management Planning process to determine if there are options to relocate cattle grazing out of the Park, if need be, on a phased basis. The present permit holders will not be allowed to increase current grazing levels. Grazing interests are not transferable and grazing opportunities will be eliminated when the present holders relinquish their interests.

x. Allow horse and other recreational riding and packing stock to use specified trails and grazing areas in the Mountain Goat Creek and in the Ashnola River Corridor. The wet environs around the Haystack Lakes in the Mountain Goat Creek drainage will be closed to stock use. No grazing will be permitted in the southern headwaters of Mountain Goat Creek. Grazing will be strictly monitored and controlled through Park Use Permit for guiding and outfitting and cattle grazing operations. Private horse use will be administered through letter of authority. Numbers of stock permitted at one time in Mountain Goat Creek will be restricted to 25 head. (see pages 42-45, horse use)

e. **Fish** (refer to pages 14, 15, Background Report)

Objectives:

To direct Fisheries management toward maintaining a variety of fishing experiences relating to public aspirations and the fishery capabilities of the Park's lakes and streams. Specific fishery management objectives are:

i. To maintain a natural rainbow trout fishery in the Ashnola River providing angling opportunities for campers and day visitors in Ashnola Valley.

ii. To maintain the abundant, easily caught, cutthroat trout in Pyramid Lake and Lake of the Woods to satisfy the majority of visitors who are novice or casual anglers.

iii. To maintain a cutthroat trout fishery in Quiniscoe Lake which provides opportunity for experienced and dedicated anglers to catch large trout.

iv. To maintain a trophy (1-2 kg) cutthroat fishery in Ladyslipper Lake offering challenging fishing opportunities.

v. To maintain the Haystack Lakes as a rainbow fishery catering to backpackers and horse users.

Actions:

i. Maintain fish stocks in all lake and stream fisheries in the Park through natural recruitment. No new or supplemental stocking will be undertaken except as required to remedy unanticipated impacts.

ii. Protect and maintain spawning habitats for all lake fisheries in their present conditions.

iii. Emphasize recreational rather than consumptive fishing in park information.

iv. No special fishing restrictions will be imposed in the Park, unless warranted to protect fishery resources.

v. Manage stream and lake fisheries in the Park consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Branch Regional Fisheries Plan when compatible with park resource and recreation objectives.

vi. Maintain records on fishing use and carry out periodic creel census. Conduct field assessments every five to six years to monitor habitat conditions.

f. **Wildlife** (see pages 15-17, Background Report)

Objectives:

The faunal resources of Cathedral Park will be managed:

i. To maintain the existing natural diversity of species presently found within the Park and to allow the natural establishment of other native species.

ii. To protect critical habitats and enhance declining habitats where compatible with other park resource management and recreation use objectives.

iii. To provide for public viewing and non-consumptive appreciation of wildlife.

iv. To provide for hunting opportunities oriented to low dispersed levels of use in the wilderness zone of the Park and for more intensive levels from road based camps in the Ashnola Valley.

v. To recognize existing guide outfitter interests in the Park where compatible with other park resource management and recreation use objectives.

vi. To encourage scientific wildlife studies and inventories, and research programs in the Park where compatible with other park objectives.

Actions:

i. Monitor and manage park wildlife in close co-operation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

ii. Establish regular wildlife inventories in the Park particularly relating to goat and sheep movements.

iii. There is limited opportunity to enhance ungulate winter range in the Park. Prescribed burns, however, in conjunction with vegetation management may be directed toward revitalizing spring and summer mule deer habitat.

iv. Maintain records of grizzly bear sighting in the Park. The Park is included in the Grizzly Border Management Project Area.

v. Monitor the natural establishment of new wildlife species through sighting records. Population levels will depend on natural recruitment for all wildlife species. The transplant of park species to other areas may be approved if there is no negative impacts on park populations.

vi. Introduce programs to protect wildlife graze and browse from domestic stock use (see ix page 24, vegetation).

vii. Manage mountain goats as the primary viewing species in the Park. Public information and trail routes will be designed to encourage visitors to observe goats from a distance. Visitor activities on Cathedral Ridge will be monitored to determine if there are disruptions to goats. Visitor activities may be restricted to reduce any apparent disruptions.

viii. Set regulations in co-ordination with the Fish and Wildlife Branch. Regulations will be conservative and designed to provide for dispersed low use levels in the wilderness zone.

ix. Restrict public horse based hunting to the east side wilderness zone area.

- Only one party will be permitted in the area at one time.
- Horse use restrictions in the area will apply to horse based hunters.
- Letters of authority will be administered on first come first serve basis.

x. Permit the Guide and Outfitter to conduct hunting activities in the Park during the lawful hunting season. Duration and location of hunts will be determined by the District Manager.

All guiding activities will be annually monitored and will be subject to revision based on Parks staff assessments of conflicts with other user interests and resource impacts. There is little potential to expand guiding rights in the Park beyond these existing privileges.

xi. Encourage scientific research related to wildlife species.

xii. Phase out existing trapline according to provincial policy.

g. **Recreation Features**

(refer to pages 17-19, Background Report)

Objective:

To ensure that resource management activities, visitor use and park facilities pose minimal impacts to recreation features in the Park.

Actions:

i. Encourage visitors to stay on trails through park information and improved definition of trail surfaces. Trail route definition through the Stone City to the Giant's Cleft will require sensitive appreciation of aesthetics and viewer interests.

h. **Visual Resources**

(refer to page 19, Background Report)

Objective:

To protect visual resources in the Park.

Actions:

i. Locate and design all park facilities in harmony with the visual setting. Attention will be placed on aesthetics in

location and improvement of trails in visually sensitive areas - around lakes, subalpine meadows, Cathedral Ridge and other open alpine terrain.

ii. Produce vegetation and wildlife management plans which recognize visual protection and enhancement.

iii. The resort will be encouraged to remain as unobtrusive as possible on Quiniscoe Lake.

F. Visitor Services Management

1. Introduction

a. General Concept

The established recreation use patterns in the Core Area, the Wilderness Zone areas, and the Ashnola River Corridor will largely set directions for visitor services management in the Park.

The transportation services of the Resort, formalized camping facilities and well marked trails in the Core Area create a feeling of confidence for inexperienced backcountry visitors. While ensuring reasonable levels of convenience and security, the present facilities, services and use restrictions in the Core Area do not detract from the typical visitor's perception of wilderness. With increasing use pressures creating problems for resource and visitor management, it is the task of management to retain this balance of naturalness.

Use of the wilderness zone areas of the Park is much less intensive and less structured than in the Core Area. In these wilderness zone areas the visitor's expectations or perceptions of wilderness are much more sensitive to the degree

and nature of facilities and services provided.

The majority of visitors in the Ashnola Valley enjoy the present informal nature of camping and recreating along the River. By necessity, visitor use restrictions, defined accesses and designated sites must be established to control use impacts. The scale and nature of park development and management services, however, must also reflect the need to maintain the freedom and space traditionally enjoyed by visitors.

b. Access Strategy

i. Core Area

B.C. Parks will ensure that a public transportation service is provided to Quiniscoe Lake.

It is both in the interest of Park Managers and the Resort to co-operate in preventing overcrowding of the Park. The number of trips a day will be limited to the carrying capacity of the Core Area. This will necessitate phone ahead reservation with the Resort for the heavy use period that generally occurs between the last two weeks in July and the first week in August.

The Lakeview trail will be promoted as the shortest and most direct route into the Core Area. Trailhead parking and camping facilities are adequate.

The Wall Creek to Quiniscoe Lake and the Ewart Creek-Mountain Goat Creek trails offer alternative accesses into the Core Area. The Wall Creek trail can be hiked in a long day, but the Ewart Creek approach requires two days. Both of these alternative routes should become more popular as the trails are improved.

ii. **Wilderness Zone**

West Side Area - The Wall Creek trail to Red Mountain Meadows is the only access into this area. Parking area and bridge crossing will be relocated to provide convenient access to the trailhead. Trailhead facilities will include parking capacity for 10 vehicles, 5 informal riverside campsites, fire circles, toilets and information shelter.

East Side Area - The Ewart Creek trailhead forms the base facility for access to the east side of the Park and the extensive hiking and horse use trail systems of the snowy alpine area. The facility base requires redevelopment to provide better facilities for horse users and to establish control over vehicle use. Development of this trailhead site will include:

- parking for 20 vehicles, turn around allowance for horse trailers.
- small corral, hitching and saddle rails, loading ramp.
- 5 riverside campsites, fire circles, toilets.
- information shelter.

There will be no restrictions on horse use on the Ewart Creek trail to its junction with the Mountain Goat Creek trail, since it serves as the access corridor to trail systems leading into the Snowy Alpine Area. A new trail will be constructed from the bottom end of Ewart Creek to the Twin Buttes (Whiskey trail) to provide an alternate to the Mountain Goat trail for hiking and horse use access into the east side wilderness area.

South Side Area - The south side wilderness area will be deliberately managed to exclude trail or facility

developments. The remnant trail in the upper section of the Wall Creek drainage will serve as a route into the top end of Wall and Ewart Creeks, however, hikers will have to contend with windfall, bushed-in and poorly defined trail sections. Access into the top end of Ewart and Wall Creeks can also be gained over high ridge routes from Haystack Mountain, Lakeview Mountain and Cathedral Ridge.

iii. **Ashnola River Corridor**

The Ashnola River Forest Road and the Ewart Creek Road provide access to the various riverside campsites and trailheads along the River Corridor. The Ashnola Road is maintained by the Ministry of Forests as a good 2 wheel drive gravel surface road. B.C. Parks will be responsible for maintenance of the Ewart Creek road within the Park, the access road to the Lakeview Creek trailhead, and the various accesses to the riverside sites within the Park. All park roads in the Corridor will be maintained in good two wheel drive gravel surface condition.

c. **Information Strategy**

The overall information strategy for Cathedral Park is to promote appropriate use of the Park's three zones and to ensure that prospective visitors are aware of the recreational opportunities and facilities provided in each one. It will be important to stress that the three zones are distinct and therefore cater to different clients seeking different opportunities. Promotion and information services will be coordinated with other government agencies (eg. Ministry of Forests) and local private sector operators (eg. Lodge and

guides). Annual promotional and informational strategies will be detailed in the Park's Visitor Services Plan which will reflect such variables as changing visitor patterns and preferences, new capital developments, funding and manpower allotments.

2. **Visitor Opportunities**

a. **Camping**

Objective:

To relate camping facilities, services and nature of camping opportunities to the use concepts of the three park zones.

Actions:

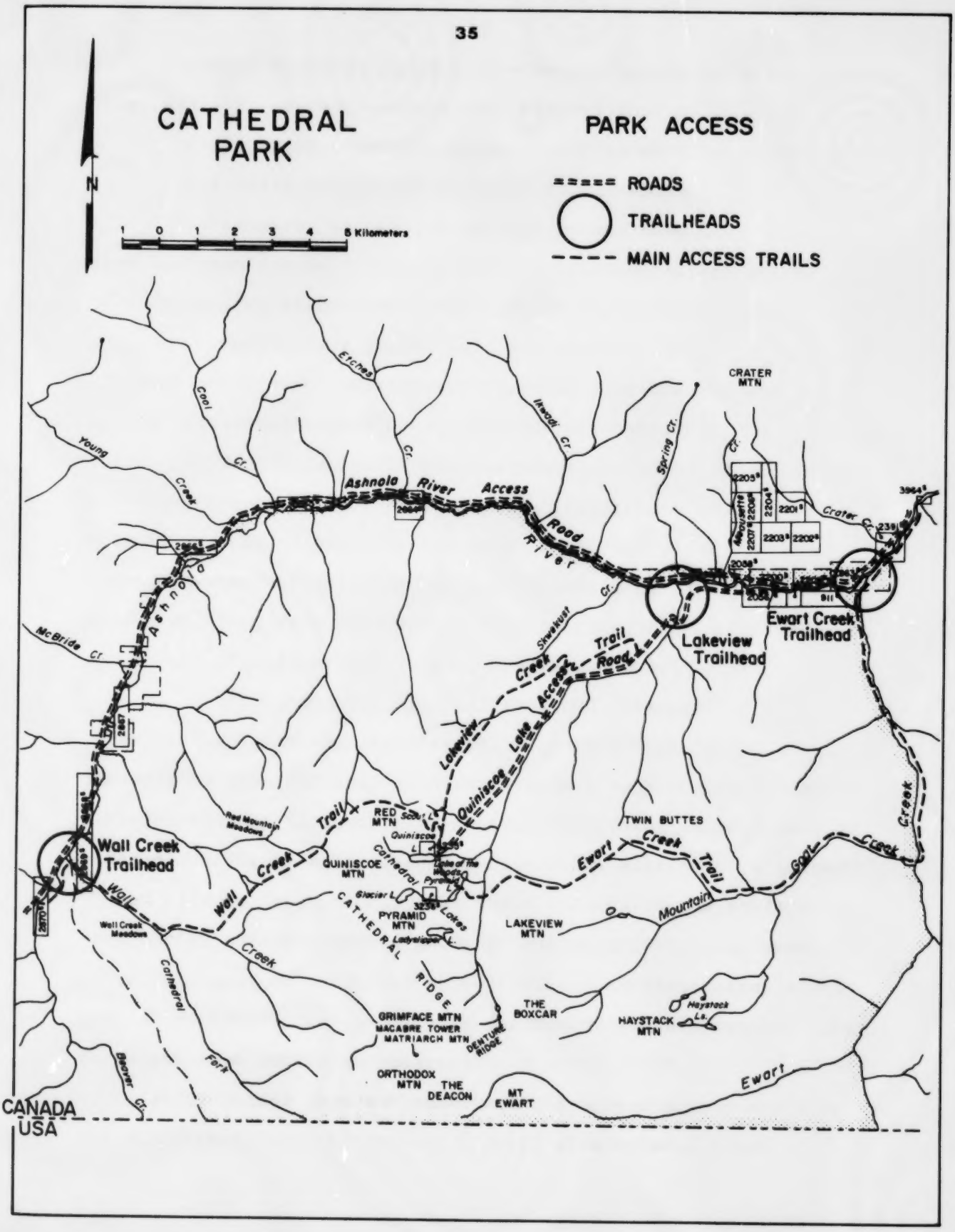
Natural Environment Zone (Core Area)

i. Support the role of Cathedral Lakes Resort in providing lodge accommodation in a natural setting for less experienced, middle and older aged visitors, groups and families or those who prefer resort accommodation.

ii. Restrict overnight use in the Core Area to designated campsites at Quiniscoe Lake, Pyramid Lake and Lake of the Woods, etc.

iii. The number of campsites will correspond to the social carrying capacity of the Core Area.

- Expand the existing Quiniscoe Lake campgrounds from 12 sites to an upper limit of 30 sites. Tables and firecircles will be provided at strategic locations in the campground for communal use. A picnic shelter may be provided to encourage use in the extended seasons and for


CATHEDRAL PARK
PARK ACCESS
ROADS
TRAILHEADS
MAIN ACCESS TRAILS
N
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Kilometers
CRATER MTN
Young Creek
Cool Cr.
Ashnola River Access Road
Ashnola
McBride Cr.
Eyches Cr.
Itswadi Cr.
Spring Cr.
Crater Cr.
Skwahun Creek
Lakeview Lake Access Road
Lakeview Trailhead
Ewart Creek Trailhead
Wall Creek Trailhead
Red Mountain Meadows
Wall Creek Meadows
Wall Creek
Cathedral Fork
Beaver Cr.
Lakeview Trail
RED MTN
Quiniscoe L.
QUINISCOE MTN
Cathedral Lake
Glacier L.
PYRAMID MTN
Ladyslaver L.
CATHEDRAL RIDGE
GRIMFACE MTN
MACABRE TOWER
MATRIARCH MTN
DENTURE RIDGE
ORTHODOX MTN
THE DEACON
MT EWART
Ewart Creek Trail
TWIN BUTTES
LAKEVIEW MTN
Mountain
Goat Creek
THE BOXCAR
HAYSTACK MTN
Haystack La.
Ewart
CANADA
USA

public convenience during inclement weather.

- Expand Pyramid Lake camping area to 15 sites, and Lake of the Woods camping area to 15 sites. Allowance of 5+ sites additional sites for overflow at Lake of the Woods. Communal firecircles will be gradually phased out from both campsites as available firewood is exhausted.
- Co-ordinate with the Resort and through administration of the Park Use Permit for the Transportation Service to ensure that vehicle scheduling corresponds with Core Area use capacities.
- Provide facilities and services in the Core Area ranging from the close security and conveniences of Quiniscoe Lake to the bare essentials at Pyramid Lake and Lake of the Woods.

Intensive Use Zone (Ashnola Corridor)

i. Provide a range of facilities from toilets, tables, garbage containers at Buckhorn campsites and the main trailheads at Ewart Creek, Lakeview Creek and Wall Creek to general open camping with toilets and communal fire circles at various other sites along the River. As a general principle, sites will be progressively more primitive from the middle portions to the end of the Park corridor.

Campsite Developments -

- Ewart Creek - 5 riverside sites for dual use by hikers and horse users; tables, fire circles, toilets.

- Buckhorn Campground - redevelopment to align campsites to river.
- Wall Creek trailhead - 5 riverside sites; tables, fire circles, toilets.

ii. Monitor use of informally defined campsites along the river. Establish vehicle controls and provide toilets where needed. Ensure fireproofing of fire circles.

Wilderness Zone

i. Encourage visitors to use low impact camping equipment and techniques.

ii. Formalize campsites and provide toilets if and where required to prevent environmental impacts in the east and west side wilderness areas.

iii. Maintain the south side wilderness area as undeveloped.

b. **Fishing**

Objective:

To provide a diversity of angling opportunities catering to the interests of most park visitors who spend only a small portion of their park visit in fishing, and to those visitors who want challenging fishing for large trout.

Actions:

i. Manage Lake of the Woods and Pyramid Lake to produce relatively easy to catch pan sized trout; Quiniscoe Lake to provide opportunities to catch larger trout; and Ladyslipper Lake to catch large Cutthroat trout.

ii. Manage Haystack Lakes, as the only viable fishery in the Wilderness Zone, to provide a small size rainbow trout

fishery. The fishery will not be promoted as a park attraction.

iii. Manage the Ashnola River to provide a rainbow trout fishery.

c. **Natural and Cultural Resource Appreciation**

Objective:

In context with Park Zone Concepts, to encourage and assist visitor opportunities to view, photograph, study and enjoy the natural and cultural features of the Park.

Actions:

i. Prepare park brochures, trailhead information and signs to allow visitors to find the natural attractions of the Core Area. Particular emphasis will be placed on the geological features of the Cathedral Ridge.

ii. Involve Ranger staff in park information and interpretation. The Quiniscoe Lake area, with the presence of captive audiences from the Resort and campground, will be the focus for visitor programs. The Quiniscoe Lake loop trail will be improved to provide a self-guided natural trail for the many older people and families with young children who visit the area.

iii. To some extent trails and park information will guide visitors through the wilderness zone. However, management strategies will be largely directed to let visitors discover the natural features and beauty of the wilderness zone on their own.

iv. Install a park information shelter to provide a statement of the landscapes and biological characteristics of the Ashnola Valley. The information will also relate to the Ministry's wildlife management programs in the valley.

d. Hiking

Objective:

To provide a variety of hiking opportunities in the Park relating primarily to the scenic and recreation attractions of the Cathedral Lakes Core Area, backpacking use of the Park's wilderness zone, and day hiking in the Ashnola Corridor.

Actions:

Natural Environment Zone (Core Area)

i. Direct all hikers in the Core Area to established trails and designated routes.

ii. Design day use hiking opportunities from overnight facilities at Quiniscoe Lake, Lake of the Woods and Pyramid Lake.

iii. Relate trail development and maintenance standards to the capabilities and safety of inexperienced hikers.

iv. Orient trails to recreation features and natural attractions, which interconnect to provide a variety of loop systems.

v. Improve the existing Core Area trail system:

- provide a safe and aesthetic walking loop around Quiniscoe Lake.
- reconstruct deteriorating corduroyed sections.
- establish a well defined single path to the Quiniscoe Lake Falls.
- provide better definition and signing of the alpine routes on Cathedral Ridge and Lakeview Mountain.

Intensive Use Zone (Ashnola Corridor)

i. Provide short riverside trails near Lakeview, Buckhorn and other campsites to enhance visitor opportunities.

ii. Encourage hikers to walk the grasslands and open forests of the Ashnola, and to hike onto Crater Mountain, the lower portions of Ewart Creek and Wall Creek trails.

Wilderness Zone

i. Relocate the Wall Creek trail well away from the potentially hazardous slumping sections above Wall Creek; relocate the upper section from the wet meadows to the dry slopes on the north side of Red Mountain meadows.

ii. Emphasize Ewart Creek, Mountain Goat and Haystack trails as both hiking and horse use trails. Major sections of Mountain Goat and Haystack Lakes will be relocated to drier ground. The Whiskey trail from Ewart trailhead to Twin Buttes, and the connector trail from Twin Buttes to Haystack Lakes will be designed primarily for horse use, but will also allow for hiking access.

iii. Maintain the south side area as wilderness with no facilities.

e. **Hunting**

Objectives:

i. To provide hunting opportunities oriented to low, dispersed levels of use in the wilderness zone of the Park and for more intensive levels from road based camps in the Ashnola Valley.

ii. To recognize existing guide and outfitter interests in the Park where there is compatibility with other park resource

management and recreation use objectives.

Actions:

i. Manage hunting as a low profile activity in the Park. Brochures and other park information will not emphasize this activity.

ii. Permit public horse based hunting by Letter of Authority only on the east side wilderness zone area. Only one horse use party will be allowed in the area at one time.

iii. Permit the guide and outfitter to conduct hunts in the east side wilderness area. All guiding activities will be annually monitored and will be subject to revision based on Parks staff assessments of conflicts with other user interests and resource impacts.

iv. Prohibit public use of the transport service to the Core Area for hunting access.

v. Close a portion of the Core Area to hunting to eliminate a perceived public safety risk and public concerns about hunting in this heavily used area of the Park. Hunting regulations in the Park will be subject to change to minimize conflicts with other park recreationists.

f. **Mountaineering**

Objective:

To offer opportunities for rock climbing and scrambling in the Park.

Actions:

i. Manage mountaineering as a low profile activity in the Park. No special mention will be made of this opportunity in park brochures.

g. **Horse Use**

Objectives:

i. To provide horse use recreation opportunities in the east side area wilderness zone and the Ashnola Corridor.

ii. To allow for commercially operated summer trail rides through the east side wilderness area.

Actions:

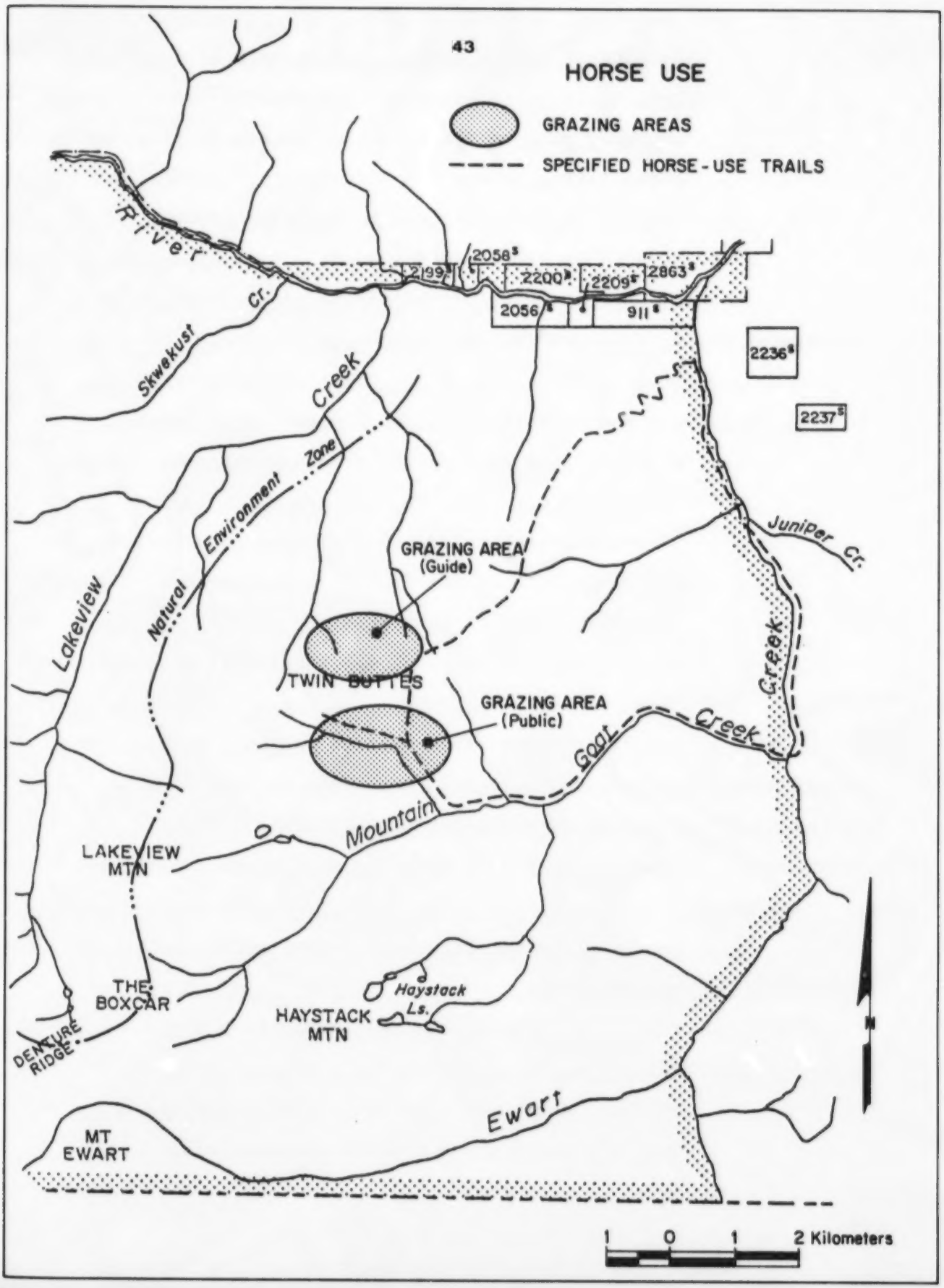
i. Regulate all horse use activities on the east side wilderness, with the exception of the Ewart Creek trail, by Letter of Authority for public horse users, and by Park Use Permit for commercial horse users.

ii. No restrictions will be applied to horse use on Ewart Creek as it forms the primary access into the Snowy Alpine Area.

iii. Public horse use will be considered a low profile activity in the Park. Park brochures and trail head signs at Ewart Creek will emphasize the fact that riding opportunities are much more extensive and regulations less restrictive in the Snowy Alpine area and in the recently established Cascade Recreation Area than in the Park.

iv. The following principles will be applied to management of public horse use:

- opening date for horse use may be set each year at the discretion of the District Manager and will likely vary from year to year depending on spring and summer snowmelt conditions.
- no more than one party to a maximum of 10 horses will be permitted at one time. Maximum stay in the Park will be 3 nights.


HORSE USE
GRAZING AREAS
SPECIFIED HORSE-USE TRAILS
River
Cr.
Skwekust
Creek
2199
2058
2200
2209
2863
2056
911
2236
2237
Environment Zone
Natural
Lakeview
GRAZING AREA (Guide)
TWIN BUTTES
GRAZING AREA (Public)
Juniper Cr.
Creek
Goat Creek
Mountain
LAKEVIEW MTN
THE BOXCAR
DENTURE RIDGE
HAYSTACK MTN
Haystack Ls.
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- conditions of the Letter of Authority will define trails, campsite locations and grazing areas; emphasis will be placed on low impact camping and horse travel ethics and techniques.
- camping and grazing will be rotated through various sections of the Mountain Goat meadows.

v. Apply the following principles to the management of commercial summer trail riding operations:

- opening dates will be set by the District Manager.
- numbers of horses will be limited to 15 horses.
- trips will be limited to two overnight stay-overs in every 7 day period.
- camp and horse grazing area will be situated to the north side of Twin Buttes; no permanent structures will be permitted.
- grazing will be rotated over the permit grazing area.

vi. Direct horse travel to specified trails. Until proper horse trails are established, horse use will be directed to the Mountain Goat Creek and Haystack Lake trails. Trail construction for horse use will be carried out on the following priority basis:

- rerouting of Mountain Goat Creek trail from wet meadows.
- rerouting of Haystack Lakes trail to a dry, firm base.
- Whiskey Jack trail from Ewart trail head to Twin Buttes in conjunction with commercial

summer horse guiding interest.

- connector from Twin Buttes to Mountain Goat Creek.
- high trail from Mountain Goat Creek to Haystack Lakes.

vii. Horses will not be permitted within 1 kilometre of Haystack Lakes.

viii. No horse trails are identified in the Ashnola Corridor portion of the Park. However, if in the future the Centennial trail is opened from Manning Park to the Ashnola River, there is potential to connect a trail along the Ashnola River to Ewart Creek.

h. **Winter Use**

Objectives:

i. To allow for ski touring in the subapline-alpine regions of the Park.

ii. To incorporate winter operation interests of the Cathedral Lakes Resort in the Park.

Actions:

i. Encourage the Resort to promote the concept of the lodge as a winter retreat rather than for cross-country skiing.

ii. The Core Area terrain is too constricted to accommodate both summer hiking trails and cross-country trails. No cross-country trails will be constructed in the Park.

iii. Restrict snowmobiles to the Quiniscoe Lake access road, to the Diamond trail and Lake of the Woods trail.

vi. Restrict helicopter access to a flight path following Lakeview Creek.

i. **Private Sector Role**

Objective:

i. To allow private sector involvement in the provision of recreation services which are compatible with park objectives and would otherwise not be provided by B.C. Parks.

ii. To encourage the Cathedral Lakes Resort in providing a variety of lodge-based outdoor recreation opportunities.

Actions:

i. Work with the Resort to develop compatible commercial recreation activities based out of the lodge.

ii. Review private sector proposals in context with park objectives and policies. Appropriate types of commercial activities may include guiding for photography, hiking, outdoor training.

iii. With the exception of winter helicopter and/or snowmobile access to the Resort, and the summer transport service, there will be no mechanized support allowed for commercial recreation use of the Park.

iv. Retain the Core Area and wilderness zone free from fixed structures and other permanent private sector assets.

3. **Management Services**

Staffing for the Park will ensure that various management responsibilities will be carried out according to the guidelines of the Master Plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry. Management and operation functions include:

- regulating public use to ensure safe and proper use of the Park and its facilities.
- monitoring of environmental conditions.

- maintenance of trails, cabins and other facilities.
- application of tree hazard removal programs and other park user safety measures.
- conducting necessary work to prevent user impacts and protection of vegetation, geologic, wildlife, water and visual resources.
- collection of user data.
- providing information, public relations, visitor program roles.
- overseeing private sector activities in the Park.

Park headquarters will be at Quiniscoe Lake. Routine patrols will be taken through the east and west side wilderness areas. Guiding operations and grazing activities will receive periodic inspections.

Proper staff accommodation will be provided at Quiniscoe Lake. The facility will be situated near the campsite and road terminus to serve as a strategic point to contact all Core Area visitors. Radio communications within the Park and to the outside will be established in the interests of public safety and efficient park management.

4. **Promotion and Information Program**

a. **General Objectives**

The general program objective is to encourage visitor use in context with recreation objectives for the Cathedral Lakes Core Area, the Ashnola River Corridor and the Wilderness Zones of the Park. Promotion strategies and visitor information will relate to 1) visitor interests, attitudes and needs, and 2) the

variety of recreation opportunities offered in these three different use areas of the Park.

Emphasis will be placed on increasing visitor use in the Core Area during early July to mid July and mid August to the end of September. Park promotion activities and materials will be closely aligned and co-ordinated with those of the Cathedral Lakes Resort to ensure that they are mutually complementary and supportive. Promotion will highlight the easy accessibility, attractiveness and suitability of the Cathedral Core Area for inexperienced backcountry users, families, groups and older enthusiasts.

Park information packages will also encourage use of the Ashnola River Corridor relating to the informal and dispersed nature of recreation use.

There will be no active promotion of the Wilderness Zones. Information about wilderness will be general, indicating only the extent and types of potential wilderness recreation opportunities available in the Park.

b. **Recreation Opportunities**

B.C. Parks will promote backcountry and auto-access outdoor recreation opportunities.

i. **Backcountry: Cathedral Lakes Core Area**

The Cathedral Lakes Core Area offers three to five day destination backcountry packages, based out of Cathedral Lakes Resort or from Provincial campsites at Quiniscoe, Pyramid and Lake of the Woods. A variety of recreation activities are available:

Hiking - Day hiking opportunities range from easy short hikes around lakes to extended hikes into the alpine.

Quiniscoe Lake Loop - This is an easy hike relating to the capabilities of older visitors, providing for evening and rainy day walks from the Resort and from the Quiniscoe Lake campground.

Pyramid Lake - Lake of the Woods - An easy half day loop from Quiniscoe through subalpine forest and beautiful lake settings.

Glacier Lake - An easy half day hike to an alpine viewpoint overlooking this scenic mountain lake.

Scout Lake - A short hike to a pleasant lake setting.

Ladyslipper Lake - A moderate day hike to spectacular turquoise watered lake.

Diamond Trail - Red Mountain - A long day hike through series of small alpine meadows, offering open vistas.

Goat Lake - A moderate day hike to the dramatic setting of Goat Lake beneath the cliffs of Grimface Mountain.

Lakeview Mountain - A long day hike along open alpine ridge to the most panoramic viewpoint in the Park.

Cathedral Ridge (Rim Trail) - The most popular day hike in the Park along fascinating geological formations of the Devil's Woodpile, the Stone City and Smokey the Bear.

Photography, Nature Study & Viewing

- Scenic, photogenic lakes, alpine meadows and mountain panoramas.
- Fascinating geological features, particularly

along Cathedral Ridge.

- Quiniscoe Lake self guided interpretive trail.

Fishing

Primarily in conjunction with other activities.

- Lake of the Woods, Pyramid Lake - easy to catch pan sized trout.
- Quiniscoe, Ladyslipper Lakes - challenging fishing for large trout.

ii. **Backcountry - backpacking access** - Backpacking destination to the Core Area, using interconnecting routes from trailheads at Lakeview, Ewart, and Wall Creeks. These trips involve either long day treks into the Core Area or one to two day excursions with overnight stops at Red Mountain Meadows or the Twin Buttes Area. Emphasis will be placed on wilderness experience, solitude and scenery.

iii. **Backcountry - Wilderness** - The Wilderness Zones provide for three to five day backpacking trips into Wall Creek, Red Mountain Meadows and Haystack Lakes. Horse use opportunities exist on the east side of the Park with connecting trail loops through to the Snowy Mountain area. General information about wilderness recreation opportunities will be available with emphasis on self reliance, wilderness ethics and low impact travel and camping techniques.

iv. **Auto Access** - The Ashnola River Corridor offers auto access day use and one to three day camping opportunities in all seasons except winter. Fishing, hiking, hunting, nature study, wildlife viewing and horseback riding are recreation activities available to the park user. Promotion of this area

will emphasize the informal, rustic nature of the camping facilities.

c. **Markets**

Promotion will continue to be primarily concentrated in the traditional market source of the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan-Similkameen areas. However, B.C. Tourism promotion packages and Provincial-Regional park brochures will feature Cathedral Park as one of the safest, most accessible and attractive backcountry parks in the Province. Promotion packages will be directed toward encouraging increased use during the early July and mid August to end of September periods. Targeted markets will include first time wilderness visitors, organized groups and middle to older aged segments of the population.

d. **Promotion and Information Strategies**

Promotion and information activities will be carried out in four distinct areas as identified by visitor's needs:

- pre-trip planning
- enroute
- on-site
- vicarious experiences

An annual review will be made of the effectiveness of all aspects of this program.

i. **Pre-trip Planning**

Information in this area will provide the basic material needed to identify the types of activities offered in the Park, the preparations necessary in order to properly enjoy a visit, and the various modes of access.

- Regional Brochure

- Park-specific brochure
- Co-operate with private sector to share information in publications.
- Mall displays (Park will be included in Regional as well as District materials)

ii. **Enroute**

Provide Regional brochure and Park-specific brochure to Information Centres.

Highway Signs/Exhibits

Retain the Highways V.I.P. signs identifying the main access route. A major exhibit illustrating the type of activities compatible with the Park, access modes, the landscapes and biological characteristics of the Ashnola Valley, and information about the Ministry of Environment's wildlife management programs in the Ashnola valley should be located as close as possible to the Highway #3 turn-off.

iii. **On-site**

Access Sites

Provide Information Shelters (Type II) at each public access point into the Park. A basic information package will consist of a drawn stylized relief map of the Park showing present location ("You Are Here"), trails and points of interest in the immediate area. As well, information specific to the site (eg. Fire Danger, drinking water, Letters of Authority, low impact camping techniques, etc.) will also be provided as required.

Ashnola Corridor (Intensive Use Zone)

(see "Access Sites") information about areas outside the Park will also be provided.

Core Area (Natural Environment Zone)

- Self-guiding materials - Quiniscoe Lake loop trail
- Information on the geological formations to be found along the Rim trail.
- Visitor Programs - in conjunction with the Lodge at Quiniscoe Lake.
- Type I shelter - detailed map (or air photo) showing trail and route locations, and incorporating photos of points of interest.
- Information on the art of "low impact camping"
- Information on fishing attributes of lakes in the Core Area.
- Trail signs - all trail signs in the Core Area shall be Park Standard.

Wilderness Zone

No on-site information other than Park Standard trail signs at major trail junctions will be provided.

Vicarious Experiences

- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Books

Assistance will be provided to private sector writers, photographers, painters and so forth to do feature articles or presentations about the Park. As well, private operators within the Park will be encouraged to seek out

individuals who might provide books, displays brochures, posters, and other materials thematically oriented to Cathedral Park.

G. Plan Implementation

1. Development

Priority 1 items:

- establish staff accommodation - Quiniscoe Lake
- relocate hazardous section of Lower Wall Creek trail
- construct Quiniscoe Lake trail loop
- define trail accesses - Cathedral Rim, Lakeview Mountain, Quiniscoe Falls.

Priority 2 items:

- relocate wet sections of Goat Lake trail
- corduroy maintenance of Lakeview trail
- relocation of trail through Red Mountain meadows
- relocation of wet sections of Haystack Lakes trail and Mountain Goat Creek trail
- improve trail head facilities at Ewart Creek and Wall Creek.

Priority 3 items:

- expand camping in Core Area
- establish vehicle impact controls in Ashnola River sites
- expand camping opportunities in the Ashnola River Corridor
- formalize campsites in wilderness zone
- construct Whiskey trail for horse use
- assess need for picnic shelter at Quiniscoe Lake.

2. **Resource Management**

- pursue options to phase out cattle grazing through co-ordinated Resource Management Planning process
- assess feasibility of establishing water driven electric plant at Quiniscoe Creek
- fire suppression plan
- vegetation management plan - initiate prescribed burning research program
- update park resource inventory
- maintain creel census and lake inventories.

3. **Visitor Services**

- develop a visitor services plan for the Park
- co-ordinate with Resort in setting limits on transport service during heavy use season
- develop promotion to increase use in shoulder seasons
- develop and update information packages
  - brochures
  - signs and information shelters (each trail head)
  - self guided brochures for Quiniscoe Lake trail and Cathedral Rim.